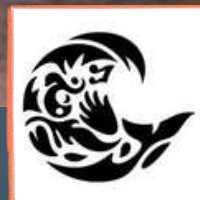


YARNUPINGS

ISSUE 2 · JUNE 2026



ISSUE 2 · JUNE 2026

YARNUPINGS

NEWSLETTER OF THE ABORIGINAL HERITAGE OFFICE



YARNUPINGS

ISSUE 2 - JUNE 2026

In this issue of Yarnupings we celebrate 50 years of NAIDOC. We display the posters all the way back to the beginning. Please take a moment to look at each one and think about the themes.

We also have the unveiling of the mural at Pocket Park, Freshwater. Stunning in blue and gold, this mural by Gilay Art, showcases the many fabulous elements of Aboriginal heritage across the northern part of Sydney.

The AHO has also been working with innovative LiDAR technology in a move to update conservation and education practices. This is a really exciting space!

We have heaps more in this issue too, so grab a cuppa and enjoy!



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UNVEILING OF GILAY ART MURAL

BY SUSAN WHITBY

April saw the official unveiling of the absolutely gorgeous artwork by Gilay Art in Pocket Park, Freshwater. Funded by a grant through the Friends of Freshie and Northern Beaches Council, the artwork depicts Aboriginal elements from the area, beautiful coastlines, shell laden middens, engravings of whales and kangaroos. The artwork also highlights the Sydney shield and the coming together of community.

The unveiling was a beautiful sunny Autumn day, everyone in good spirits and excited to see the unveiling with dignitaries from Northern Beaches Council attending. The local community kindergarten also joined in the festivities and little ones sang songs.

GILAY ART IS A
PASSION, A
SOURCE OF JOY.

CHANTELLE & KYLE NETTLETON



VOLUNTEER NEWS

BY SUSAN WHITBY

There has been lots going on in the volunteer space lately and the program has an invigorated enthusiasm to it. We have just celebrated National Volunteer Week and it's always fun to send out certificates of appreciation and join in morning teas, celebrating our wonderful volunteers.

The AHO has also been really lucky to have the lovely Wong family volunteer for a few days during the school holidays. Mum, Dad and both girls were absolutely incredible, inventive, collaborative and so so helpful redoing the AHO brochures and 3D scanning objects in the AHO museum. They enjoyed the experience so much, they are volunteering again soon!



The AHO volunteer site monitoring program is returning to in-person inductions at the AHO museum in Freshwater, with the next one being held on the 11th June at 6.00pm.

We began solo and online inductions during Covid and for a while they worked really well. But now we really want to create a sense of community with our volunteer program, which means getting people back together.

So, we are bringing back the inductions at the AHO Museum. If you would like to join in our next induction, please send a message to ahovolunteer@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au.

We welcome newbies who would like to join and also our regulars who might like a refresh and a catch up. Hope to see you there!

EVERY TIME YOU
SHOW UP YOU
CREATE
CONNECTIONS AND
SHAPE A BETTER
COMMUNITY

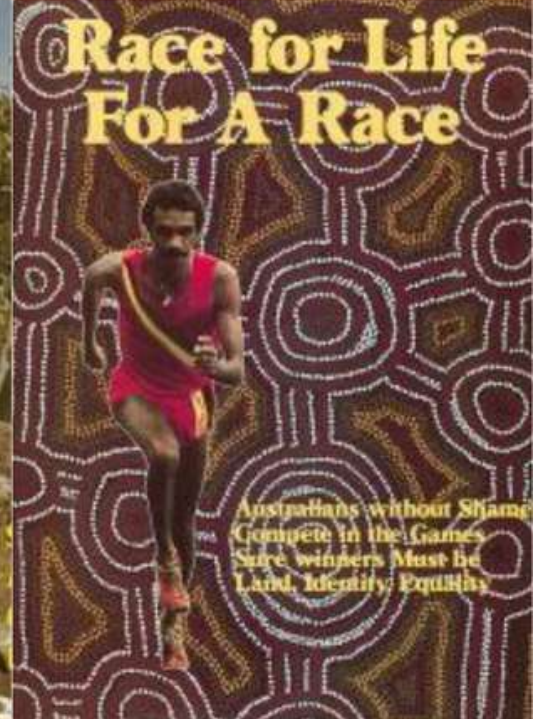
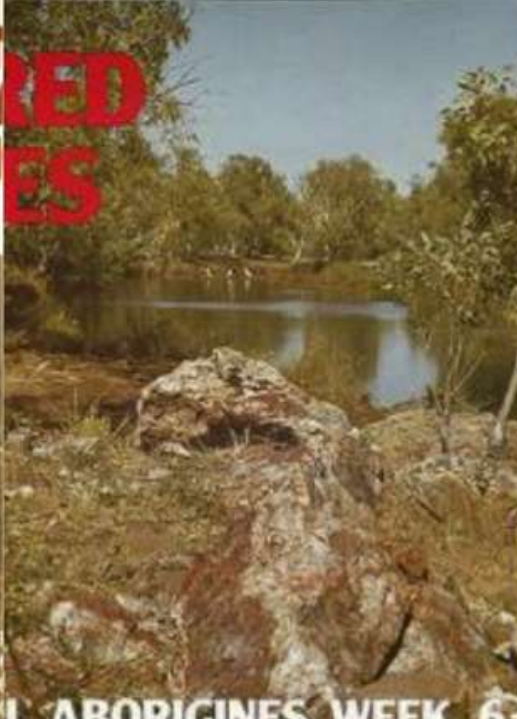
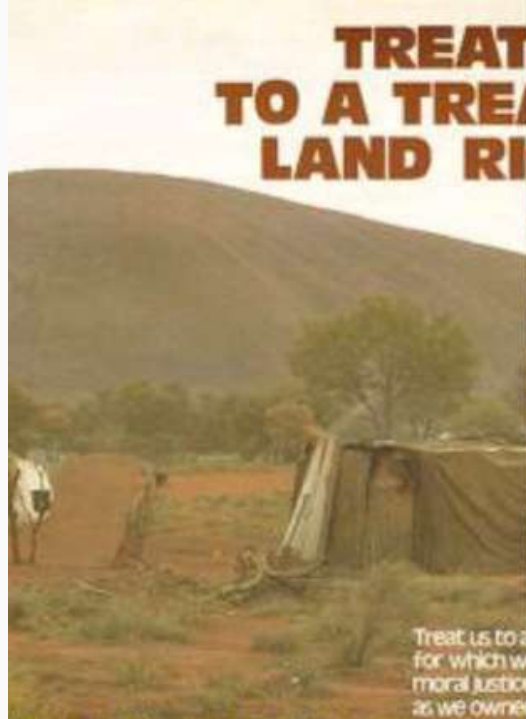
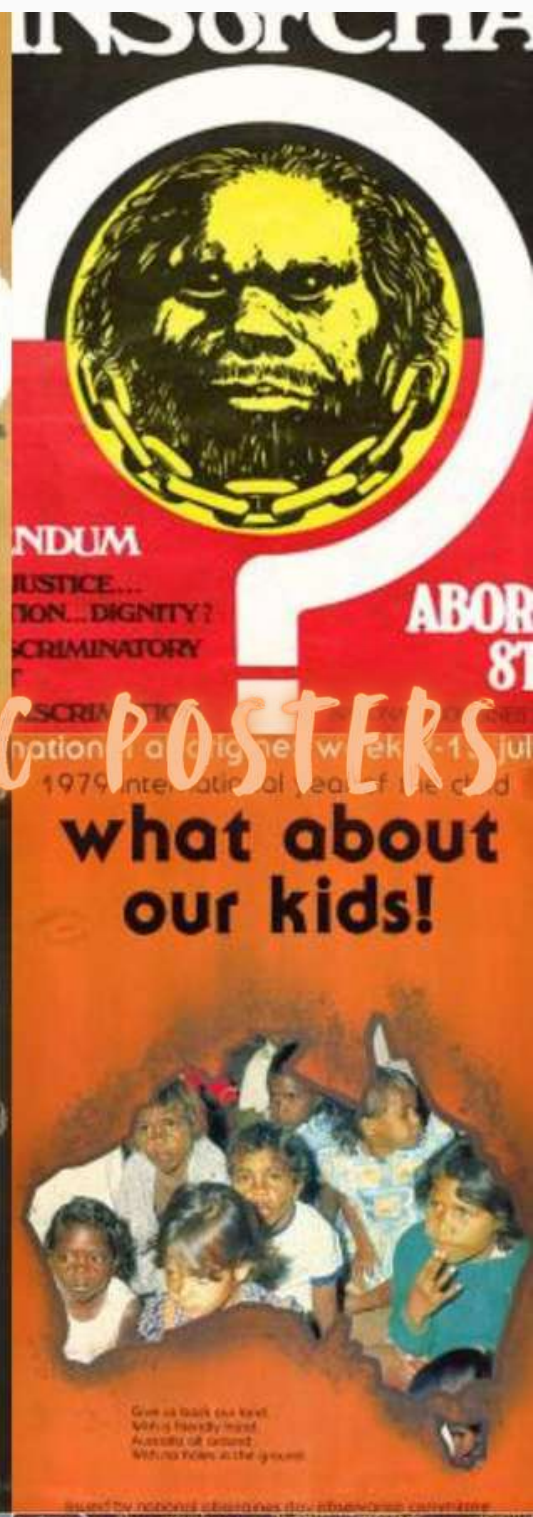
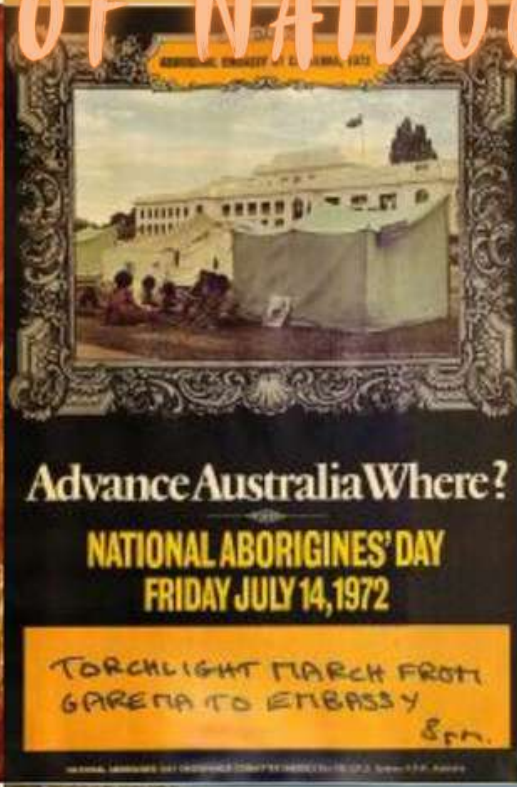
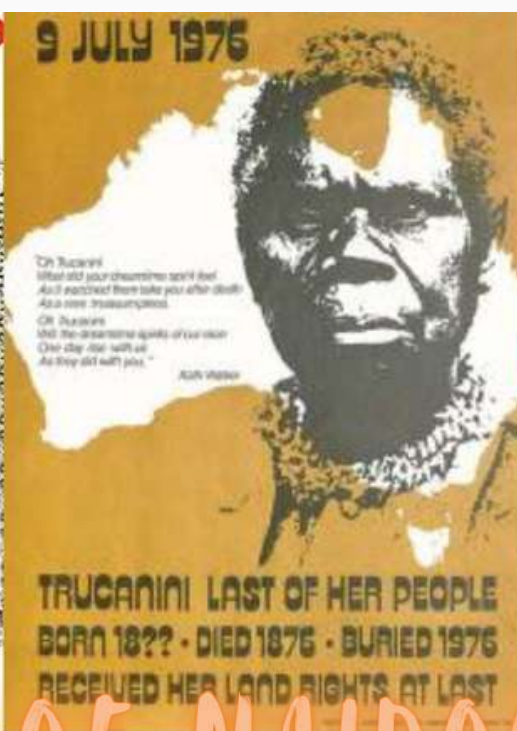
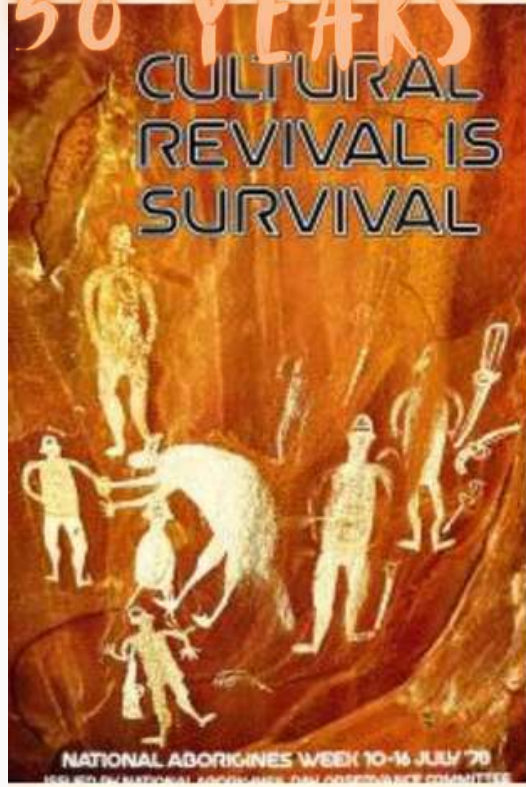


NATIONAL ABORIGINES

12TH JULY 1974



SELF-DETERMINATION





ABORIGINES WEEK 4-11

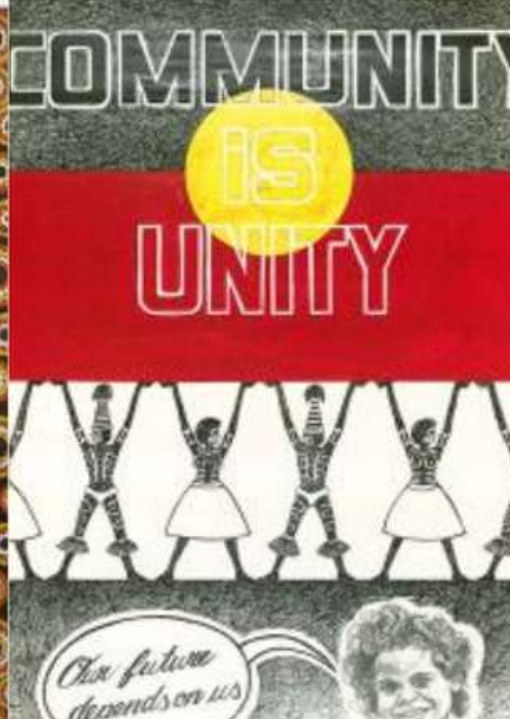
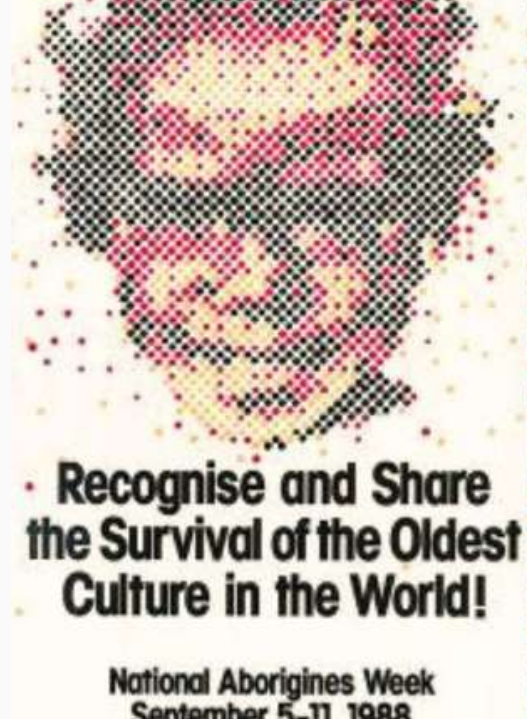
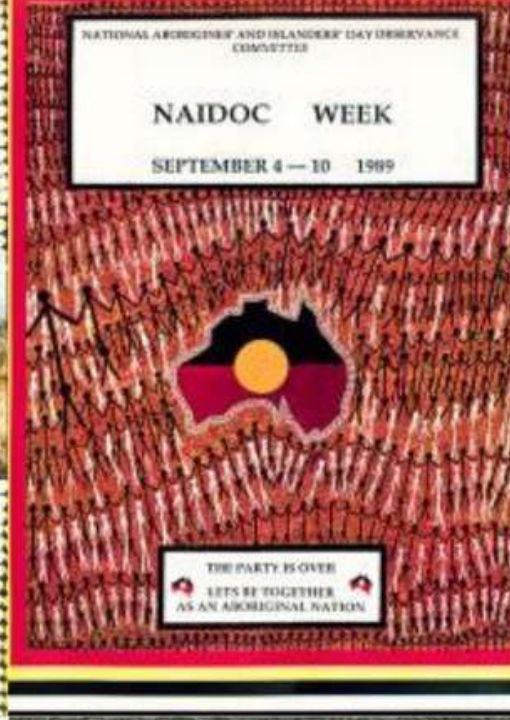
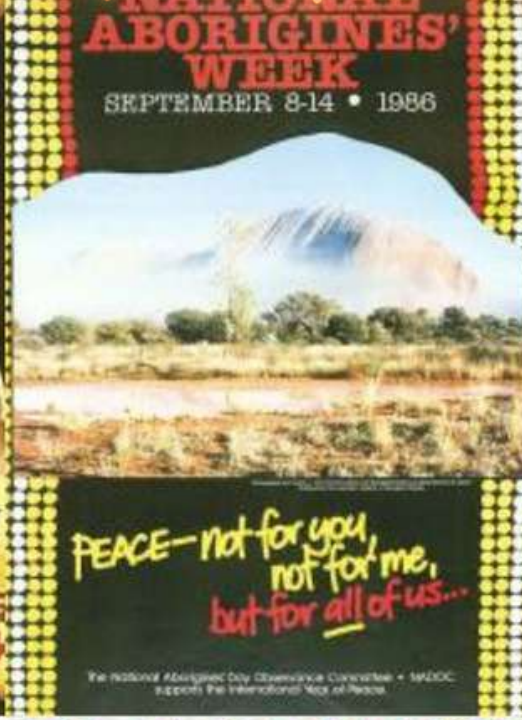


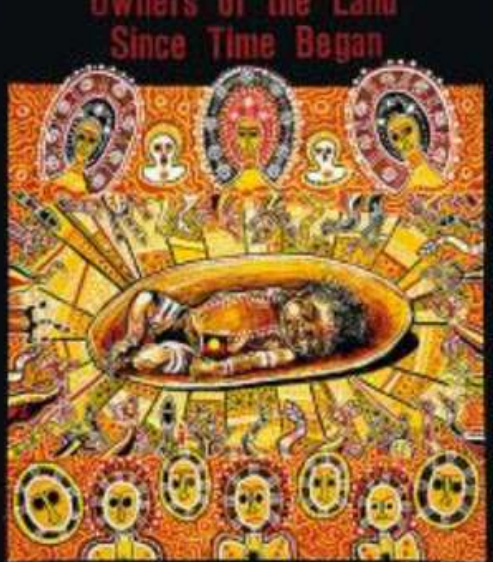
OF DISCOVERY
TO THE LAND, MY MOTHER.
NATIONAL ABORIGINES' WEEK
Sept 10 - 15 1968



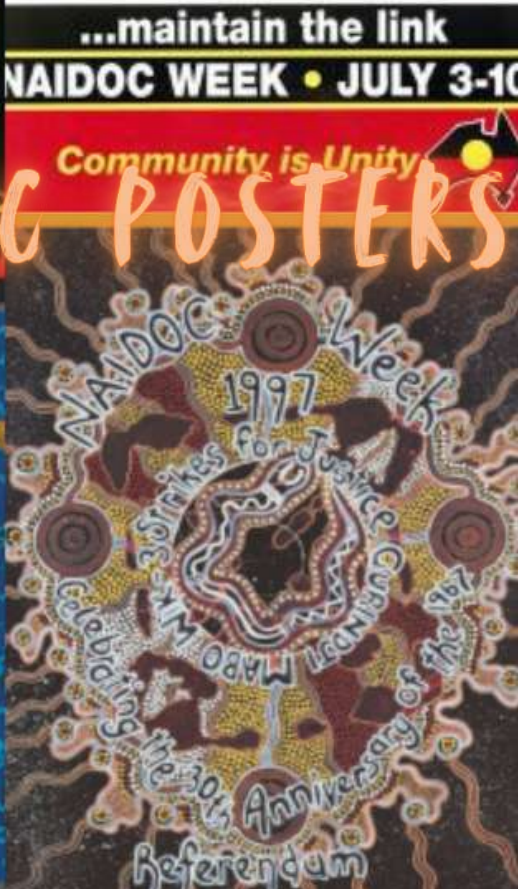
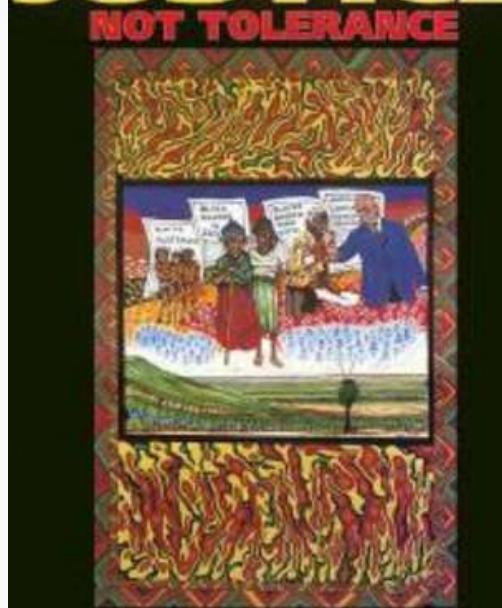
It takes the two of us.
National
Aborigines' Week
SEPTEMBER 9-15

50 YEARS OF NAIDOC POSTERS





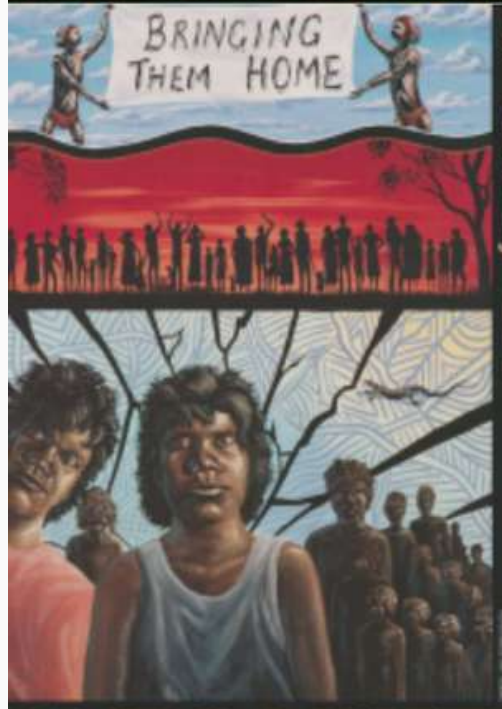
50 YEARS OF NAIDOC POSTERS



NAIDOC Week • 9 16 July 1995
COMMUNITY IS UNITY

WEEK 7TH TO 14TH

Gurindji, Mabo, Wik
Three Strikes for Justice



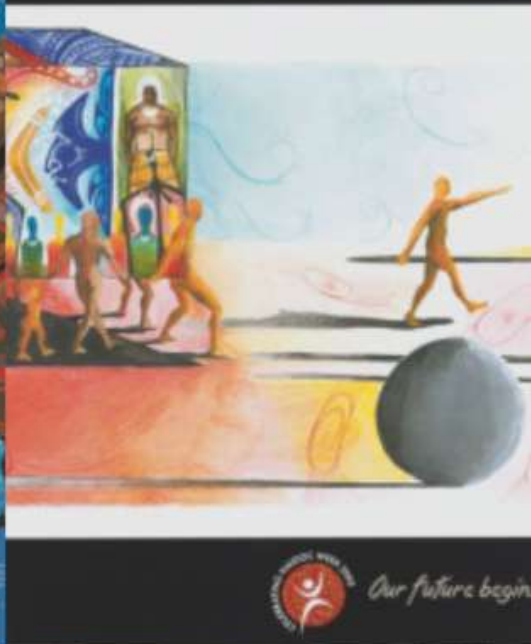
8-15 July 2003



reaty...let's get it right
ATOC WEEK 4 JULY
Our Community — Our Future — Our Responsibility

Recognition Rights and Reform
NATIONAL NAIDOC WEEK
Respect the Past — Believe in the Future

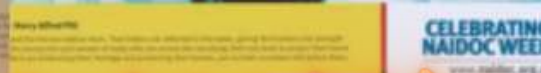
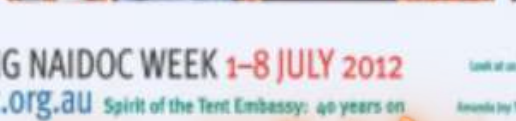
NAIDOC WEEK
13-11 JULY 2005



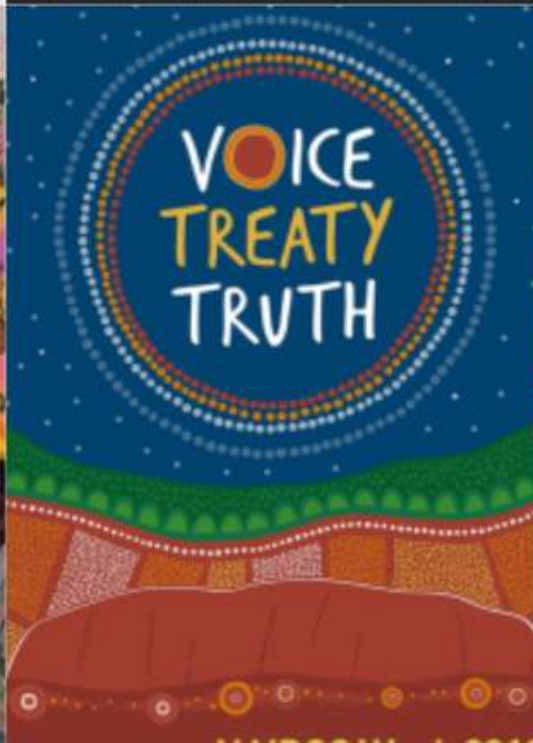
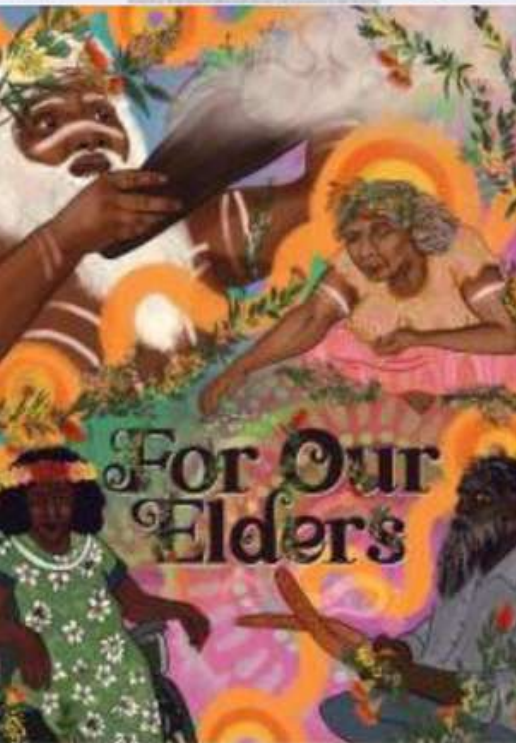
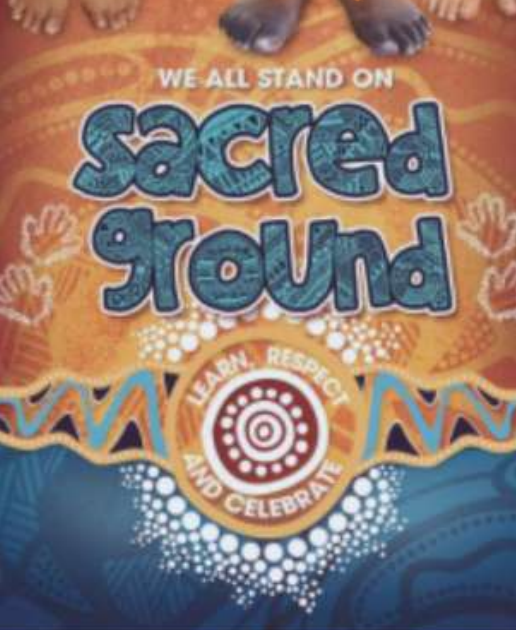
8-15 July
2007

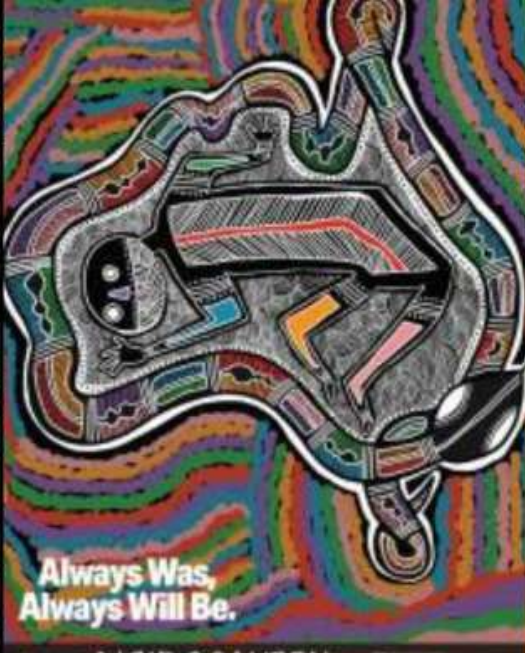
50 years: Look

NAIDOC WEEK 2009
OUR ELDERS

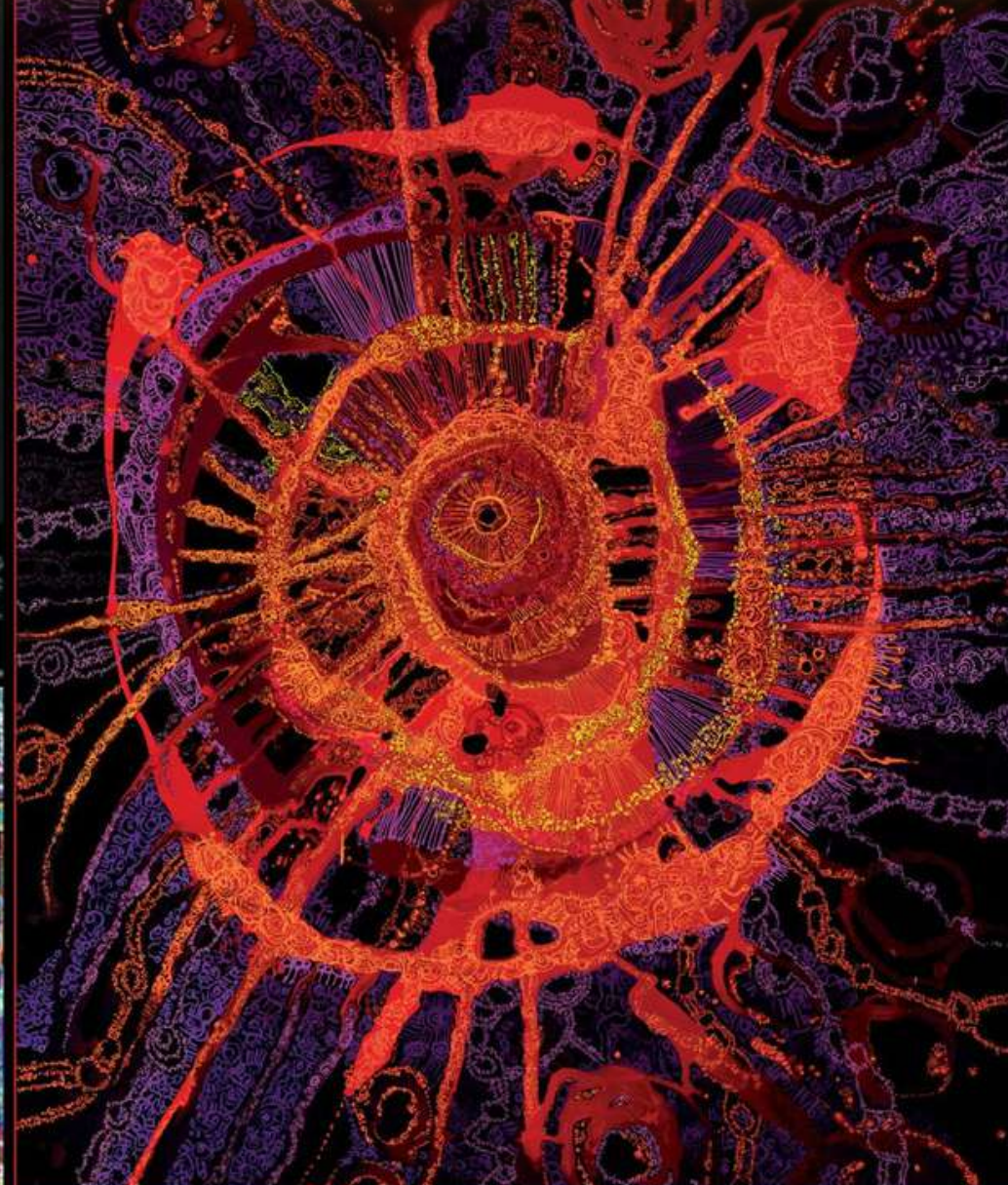


50 YEARS OF NAIDOC POSTERS





50 YEARS OF NAIDOC POSTERS



NAIDOC WEEK
50 YEARS DEADLY
5-12 JULY 2026

Paralpi by Zaachariaha Fielding

Paralpi extends Zaachariaha's acclaimed *Inma* series and reflects a deeply cultural and immersive narrative grounded in Country. The artwork depicts the sounds of *Paralpi*, a significant place just outside Mimili on the eastern APY Lands in South Australia. As Zaachariaha describes, *Paralpi* is a place where people come to embrace and celebrate children, where they are taught by Elders to move and mimic their Clan emblem — for Mimili, this being the maku (witchetty grub).



3D LIDAR SCANNING – INNOVATIVE ARCHAEOLOGY FOR URBAN AREAS

BY SUSAN WHITBY

The AHO was looking for up-to-date conservation and education tools for the Aboriginal sites across the partner Council boundaries. With this focus in mind, the AHO was looking for digital archaeology technology options that would be simple to include in their conservation monitoring and volunteer monitoring and also visually engaging to captivate and inspire younger audiences.

The AHO will be able to share these sites with the community through images and videos with future hopes of 3D models, and virtual reality experiences which will allow the community to access sites that might otherwise remain off-limits due to privacy and safety concerns.

The AHO has been excited to share this technology with the CEOs of Lane Cove, Willoughby and Northern Beaches Councils, who were suitably impressed with the ease, accuracy and efficiency of this type of recording. We look forward to meeting up with the other partner Council CEOs in the very near future.



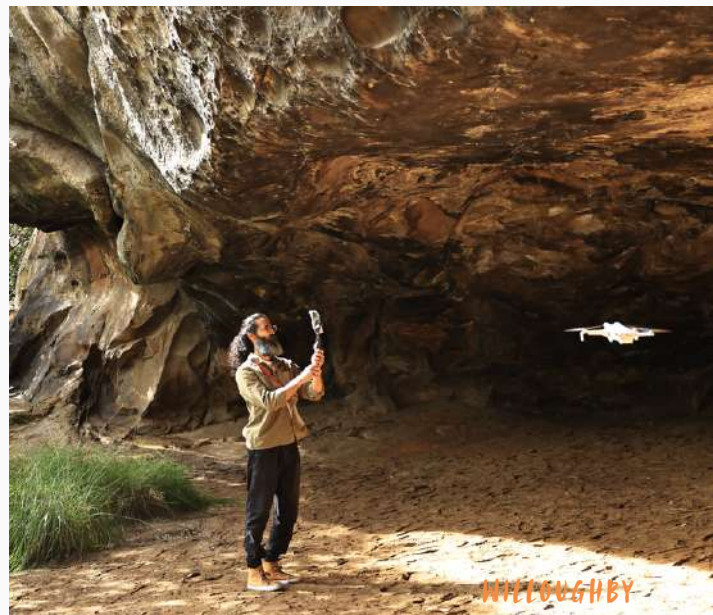
LANE COVE



NORTHERN BEACHES



3D SCAN OF OVERHANG



WILLOUGHBY



AHO MUSEUM NEWS

BY SUSAN WHITBY

The Museum has been a buzz lately. We've had members of the public join us for Seniors Week. Great curiosity and enthusiasm was seen on the day, with many seniors learning new facts about Aboriginal cultural heritage. Most people have their view of Aboriginal culture cemented through their high school years and for many of the people who came to visit the museum, their school education taught them mostly about colonial history not Aboriginal. So, it was wonderful to share our knowledge with the local seniors.

Another wonderful educational visit was from the Willoughby Councillors. The Mayor came and spoke with the AHO staff and Manager. There was great interest in the artefacts, the new mural and the work that the AHO does and how we work towards conservation of Aboriginal sites and education across the community.

Another story that deserves sharing is one of an overseas student, new to Australia, who wanted to learn more about Aboriginal culture. Sheridan, from China, searched the internet to find a place in Sydney to go to learn about about Aboriginal culture. Chat GPT identified the Aboriginal Heritage Office as one of the best museums to go to in Sydney.

A bus, a ferry, and a bus later, Sheridan found his way to Freshwater and the AHO. He spent some time looking around, then Kyle and I pulled out some artefacts for Sheridan to hold and have a yarn about. His eyes lit up and he kept saying, 'Wow, I can't believe I actually get to hold this. Wow!' Kyle played the Yidikki and Sheridan's eyes lit up. Kyle and Sheridan then swapped stories about the traditional instruments from their areas.

Sheridan was absolutely stoked to have come to the AHO Museum. We are a small museum, but our personal interaction with everyone who comes through the door makes our museum special and unique. We care about Aboriginal culture and we love to share what we know and learn from each other.

The AHO Museum hours are 9am - 3pm Tuesday - Thursday.
We are open other times by appointment.



SENIORS WEEK



WILLOUGHBY COUNCILLORS

RECONCILIATION WEEK

ALL IN
NATIONAL
RECONCILIATION
WEEK 2026
27 MAY – 3 JUNE
FOR RECONCILIATION

2026 – RECONCILIATION – ALL IN!

BY KAREN SMITH

Race Relations

Goal: Positive two-way relationships built on trust and respect exist between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous Australians throughout society.

Equality & Equity

Goal: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians participate equally and equitably in all areas of life – i.e. we have closed the gaps in life outcomes – and the distinctive individual and collective rights and cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are universally recognised and respected. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are self-determining.

Historical Acceptance

Goal: There is widespread acceptance of our nation's history and agreement that the wrongs of the past will never be repeated—there is truth, justice, healing and historical acceptance.

Institutional Integrity

Goal: Our political, business and community institutions actively support all dimensions of reconciliation.

Unity

Goal: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures and rights are a valued and recognised part of a shared national identity and, as a result, there is national unity.

RECONCILIATION IS A JOURNEY FOR ALL AUSTRALIANS

- AS INDIVIDUALS
- FAMILIES,
- COMMUNITIES,
- ORGANISATIONS
- AND IMPORTANTLY AS A NATION
- AT THE HEART OF THIS JOURNEY ARE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE BROADER AUSTRALIAN COMMUNITY AND ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLES.



THE FIVE DIMENSIONS OF RECONCILIATION

NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK 2026

27 MAY – 3 JUNE



25 YEARS OF
RECONCILIATION
AUSTRALIA

ALL IN

FOR RECONCILIATION

#NRW2026

RECONCILIATION.ORG.AU

NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK 2026

27 MAY – 3 JUNE

ALL IN

FOR RECONCILIATION



TAKE ACTION

MAKE CHANGE

I'M
IN

I'M
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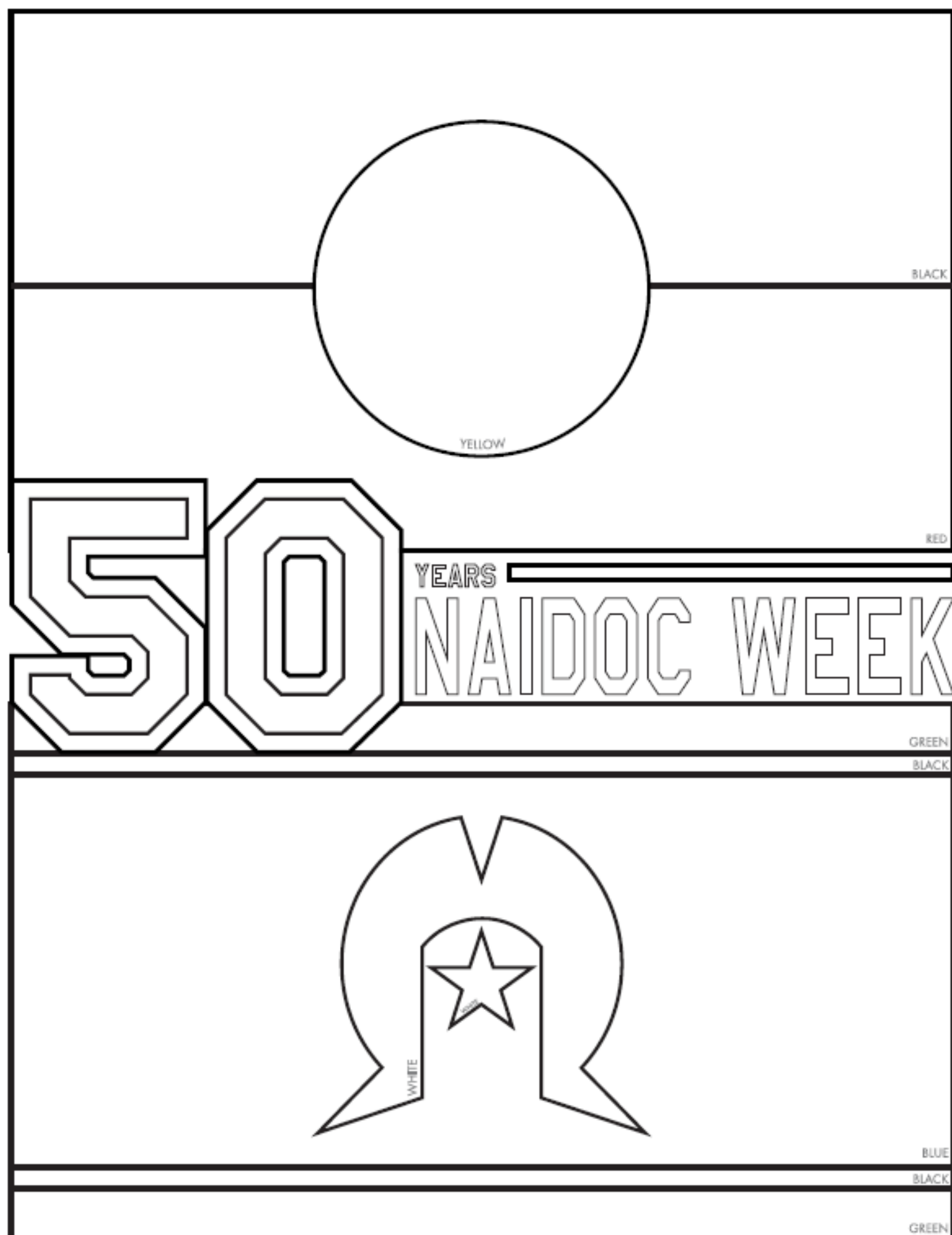
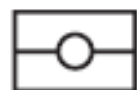
I'M
IN

#NRW2026

RECONCILIATION.ORG.AU



25 YEARS OF
RECONCILIATION
AUSTRALIA



HUNTING OR GATHERING



IN THE TREES

BY KAREN SMITH

GURAGURA -
BROWN POSSUM

BURUMIN -
GREY POSSUM

GAN - REPTILES

DANGANUWA - WORM
FOUND IN GRASS TREES

BURRADHUN - GRUB

NUGUWARA - HONEY

BUSH TUCKER

IT'S FINGER LIME SEASON!

BY SUSAN WHITBY

Bring on the cooler weather and the delicious bush tucker foods that are in season. I especially enjoy when the finger limes come into season. The traditional name for finger limes in Bundjalung is Gulalung.

Packed with vitamin c, finger limes are perfect for helping to keep us feeling nice and healthy during the cooler months.

The little beads found in the lime release their juice when popped. People refer to these beads as caviar, but I also think they are the original popping pearls!
So delicious!

To find out how to use finger limes, head online as there are so many wonderful recipes. My mouth is watering just reading them! There are also wonderful bush tucker recipe books and which are come highly recommended.

Enjoy the culinary exploration this winter!



WINTER BUSH TUCKER FOODS

FINGER LIMES

YAMS

LEMON MYRTLE

WATTLESEED

WARRIGAL GREENS

MINT

THE YARNUPINGS NEWSLETTER
WOULD LOVE TO GET YOU
INVOLVED IN THIS BUSH TUCKER
SECTION.

WE WOULD LOVE TO SHOWCASE
YOUR BUSH TUCKER MEALS THAT
YOU CREATE.

SNAP A PIC OF YOUR MEAL OR
THE BUSHTUCKER INGREDIENTS
AND WE'LL SHARE IT WITH THE
YARNUPINGS COMMUNITY!

SEND YOUR PICS THROUGH TO
AHOVOLUNTEER@
NORTHERNBEACHES.
NSW.GOV.AU

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AWARDS

SOMETHING TO CELEBRATE

BY BRENT EMMONS

In the time between now and the last published edition of Yarnupings, the Aboriginal Heritage Office was informed that it was a finalist in the NSW Local Government Excellence Award in the category of First Nations Community Partnership. (We submitted an application in early February).

The AHO was the only finalist across all applicants and categories to represent more than a single council. We represented all five of our supporting councils. Our submission was based on the AHO's 25 years of successful partnership with local councils.

With everyone dressed in their finest attire, on the evening of Thursday, June 4th the AHO team (Susan, Kyle, Karen, Brent), the AHO steering committee (Gabrielle, Ted, Jacob, Mal), and two AHO volunteers (Ros, Liza) attended the gala dinner held at the Royal Randwick Racecourse. There were well over a thousand people who attended the event, representing local councils from across NSW. It was inspiring to see how many amazing people and projects were showcased from across the state.

The event included a four-course meal, drinks, music, photos, and a lengthy two-part award presentation. The AHO did not win the award in the First Nations Community Partnership, but we all had a fabulous time. In Ros's words, "The AHO is already winners." We ended the evening on the dance floor, dancing to the live music, with smiles on our faces.

